

# Samuel G. Harter

## Field Notes

July 9, 1930 - August 14, 1930

San Diego Natural History Museum Research Library



July 9, 1930

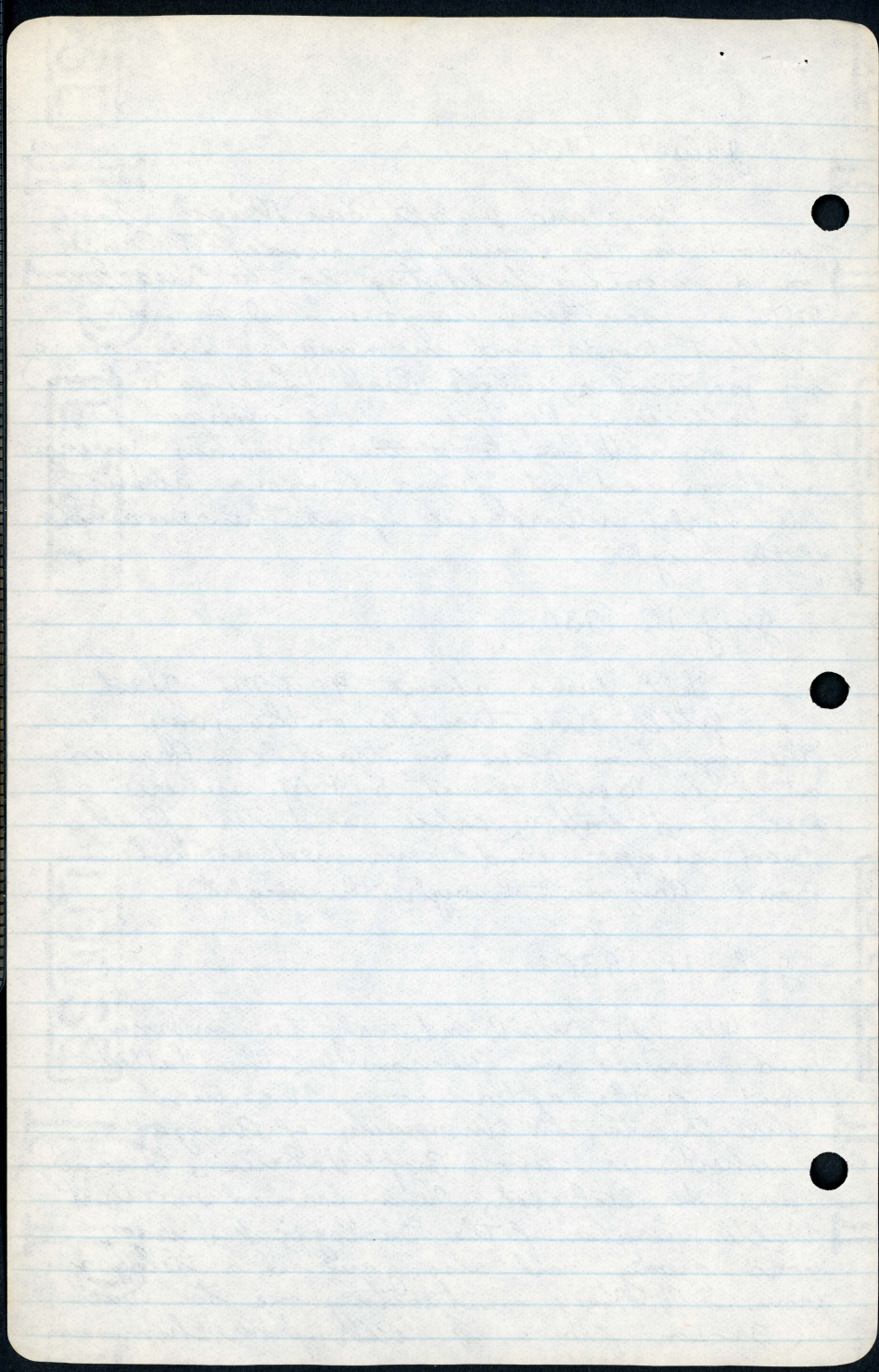
Cook and I left San Diego about noon in the museum model T Truck on a month's field trip to the Huachuca Mts. in southern Arizona. I am to collect Birds and mammals, Thomomys in particular, while Cook (Lorenzo H. Cook) is collecting Reptiles. We stopped for supper at ~~Pagote Wells~~ Mountain Springs and arrived at Yuma, Arizona about midnight where we spent the remainder of the night.

July 10, 1930.

Left Yuma about 9 A.M. Had a little tire trouble on the way and the ignition gave no trouble. Arrived at Sila Bend about 5 P.M. where we had battery cable and tire fixed. Had supper and remained at Sila Bend, Arizona through the night.

July 11, 1930

We left Sila Bend early this morning and arrived in Tucson in the latter part of the afternoon. We went directly to the University of Arizona where we saw Prof. Volinies, Entomologist and Herpetologist. He informed me that Walter Taylor of the Biological Survey was away and also gave me a telegram from S. M. Haas instructing me to wait in Tucson for a letter from him.





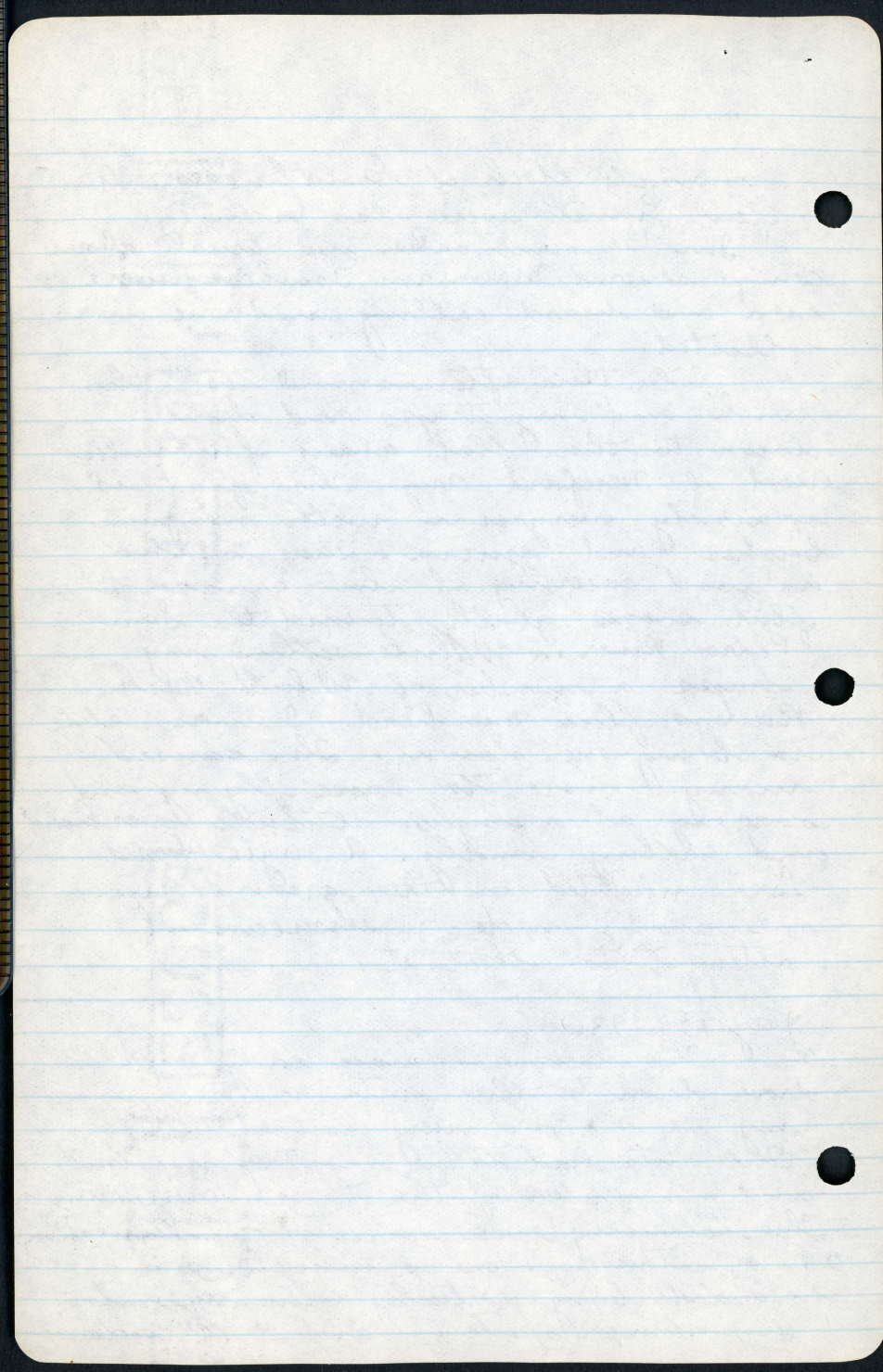
July 11 continued -  
- containing my collecting permit. We remained in Tucson over night.

July 12, 1930

This morning as the letter had not yet arrived we drove to some low hills west of the city where Cook shot lizards and I noticed a few Mockingbirds singing in the saguaro cactus. It was very hot there and few birds were seen. The letter arrived about noon and we left the city soon after to make the last stretch of our trip. We arrived in Ramsey Canyon in the Huachuclas at about dusk and in a short time found Walker's camp and pitched our tent nearby. Our camp is about a mile up from the mouth of the canyon and close to a running stream of clear, cold water bordered by a luxuriant growth of Oaks, Black & Walnuts, Wild Cherry and other less common deciduous trees. The hillsides are covered by a thick growth of scrub-oak and manzanita.

July 13, 1930

This morning Cook, Walker and I hunted up Ramsey Canyon about five miles to the old Hamburg mine. Birds did not seem plentiful. In the canyon along the creek which is bordered by a mixed growth of Oaks, Black Walnut, and conifers, the





July 13, 1930 - continued -

following birds were noted -

Black-Headed Grosbeak - A male was collected and a few others seen.

Painted Redstart - Two males were collected and a few more seen.

Red-faced Warbler - A single one seen and collected.

Vireo sp. Two seen and taken.

*Myiarchus* a small group were seen and heard calling in Black Walnut trees. One was taken.

Bridled Titmouse - a small flock were seen in the oaks and an immature specimen was taken.

Crested Jay - Several seen in the upper part of the Canyon. Often heard. Two were collected, an adult and an immature.

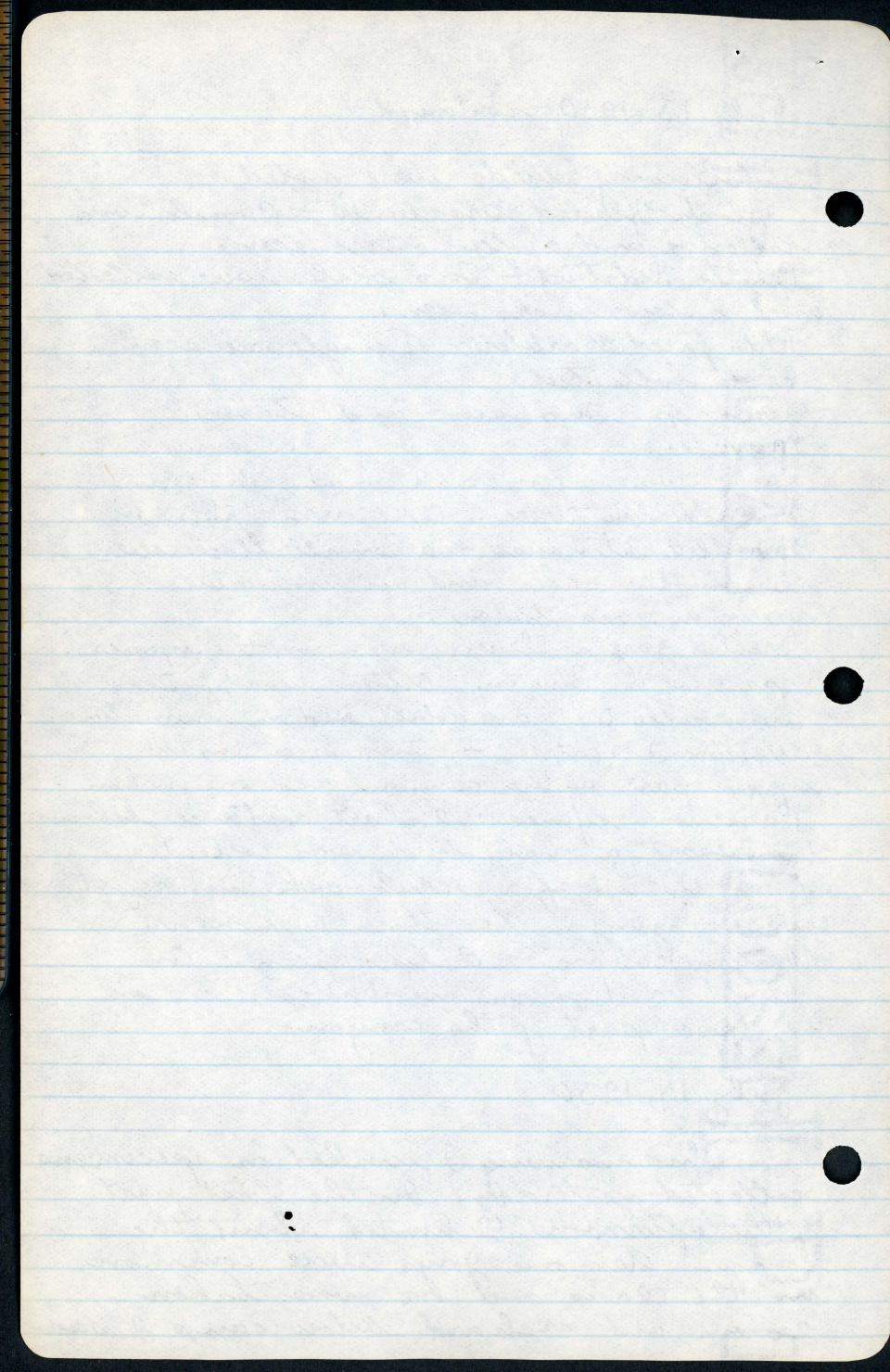
Western Flycatcher - Two seen in the upper part of the canyon and one taken.

*Passerina cyanea* - A short distance below the resort a male bird was collected from the top of a scrub oak where it was singing. No others were seen.

Western Robins - A few seen. An adult and immature were collected in the upper part of the canyon.

July 14, 1930

This morning I worked on specimens collected yesterday. In the first part of the afternoon I hunted about the camp. Arizona Jays were common in the Oaks and one was taken. In an old orchard below camp I saw





a small flock of Goldfinches. A few Linnets were also seen.

In the scrub oaks and brush above camp several Mountain Towhees were seen and heard calling and one was collected.

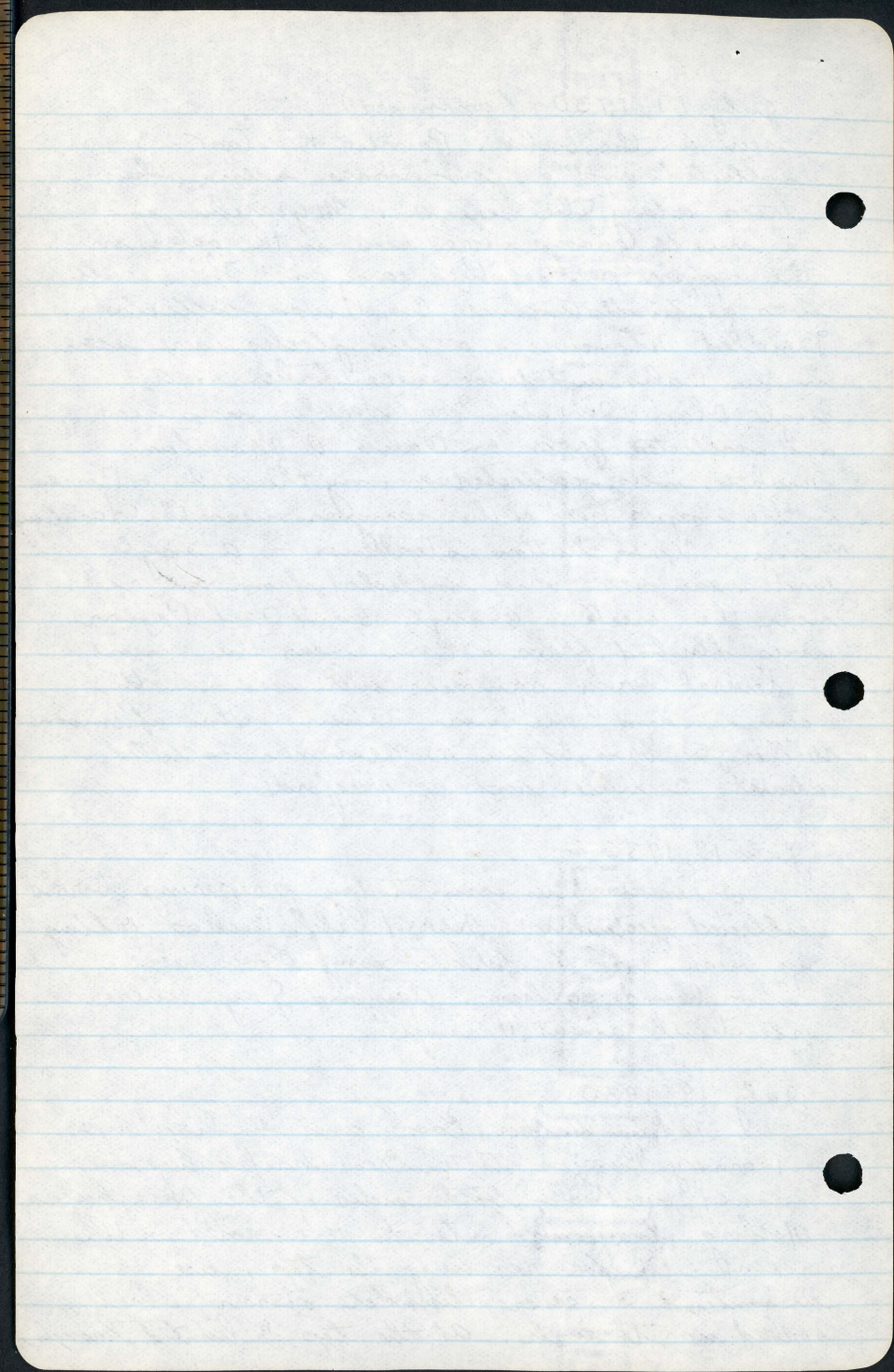
Later this afternoon I took the truck and my traps and drove down to the flat about five miles west of Hereford, Ariz. This flat is sparsely overgrown with mesquite bushes and yucca. There is also a good covering of low grass. The flat slopes gently toward the San Pedro River. While setting my

traps a number of White-Neck Ravens flew overhead. I was able to bring one down. This caused many more to come flying and soaring at a higher altitude overhead and calling loudly. A single Horned Lark alighted on the ground near me and I made an unsuccessful attempt to collect it.

July 15, 1930

This morning I arose early and drove down to the flats to pick up my traps. Had very little luck.

The ants had taken most of my bait and a number of the traps were sprung. The following were collected - 1 *Sigmodon*, 2 *Perognathus* sp. one of which was discarded being partially eaten by ants; 1 *Slipodomys spectabilis* and 4 *Dipodomys*





July 15, 1930 (continued)

merriami 3 of which had broken skulls and were discarded. White-Neck Ravens were again seen in plentiful numbers and another was collected. An Ash-throated Flycatcher was also collected near the road. A few White Rumps, Shrikes were seen about some old adobe houses.

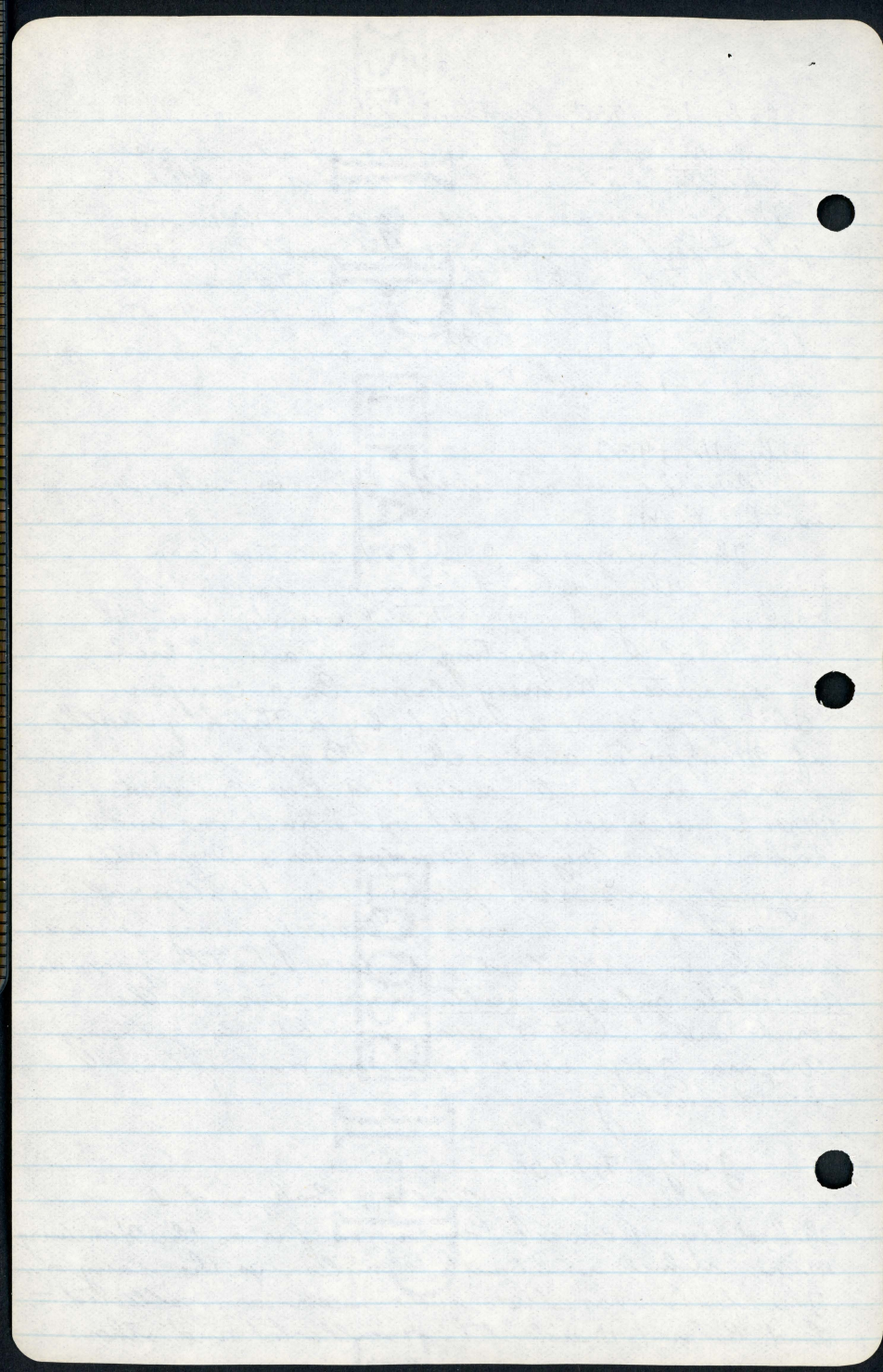
July 16, 1930

Weather warm with thunder showers in the P. M.

This morning I hiked over to Carr canyon, the adjacent canyon south of Ramsey canyon. The trail winds over the base of a projecting mountain which separates Ramsey from Carr canyon. The slopes are covered by a thick growth of Manzanita and oak. Birds were scarce and quite wary. A few Bewick Wrens were seen in the oaks and one was taken. An Arizona Woodpecker, Dryobates arizonae was seen pecking in the top of an oak. As it was extremely wary I was unable to collect it. A few Scott Sparrows aimophila ruficeps scotti were seen in the scrub oaks but I was unable to get any. Arizona Jays were common and often heard calling.

July 17, 1930

This morning Walker, Cook, and I hiked up Ramsey Canyon as far as the Hamburg Mine which is about 16 miles up the canyon. The following birds were seen or collected - Lead Colored Bush-tit - 4 collected and others





July 17, 1930 (continued)

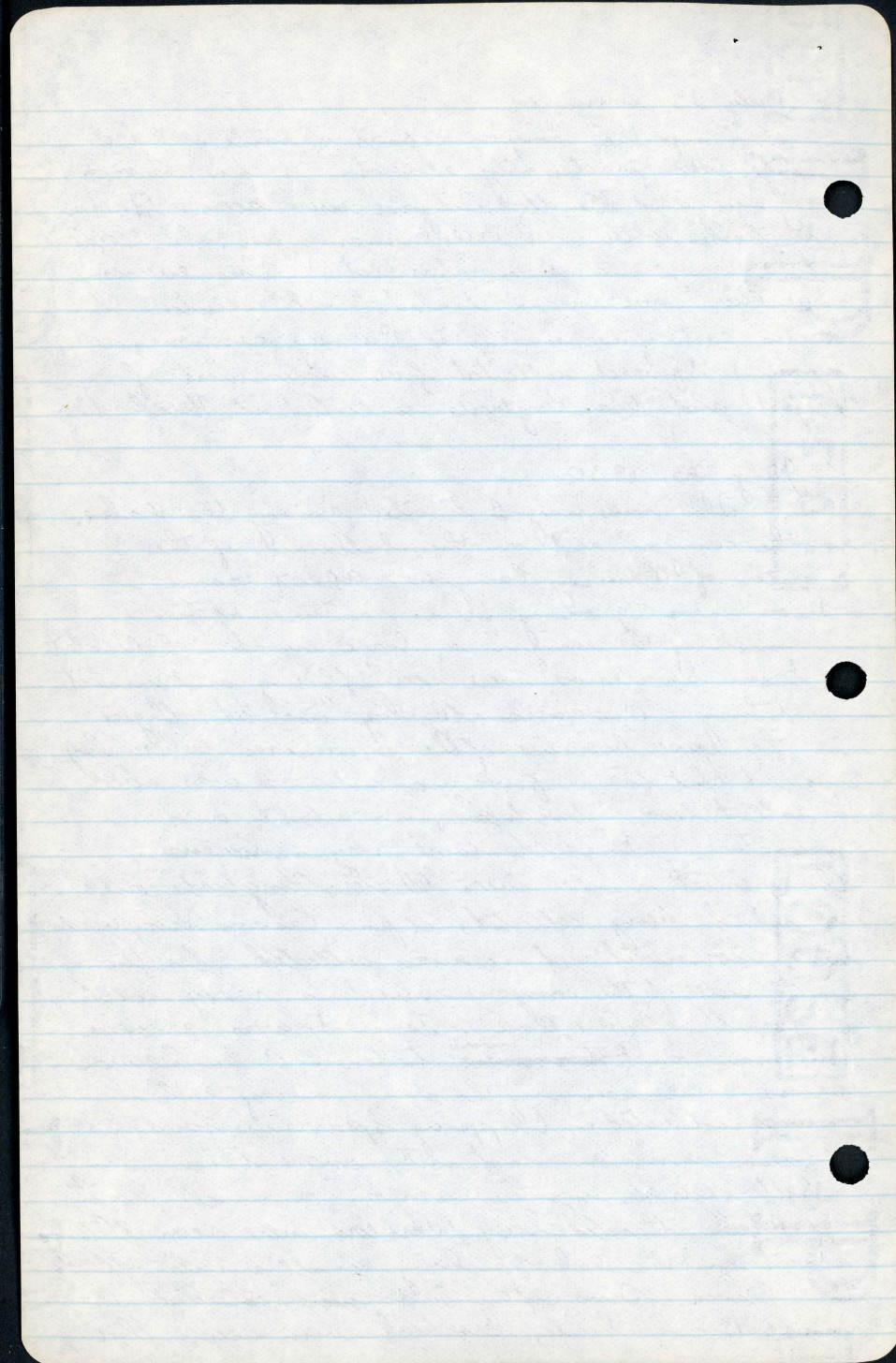
seen in the oaks. Painted Redstart - 3 collected and a few more seen in the trees along the creek. Myiarchus sp. - a small group were seen in the oaks in the upper part of the canyon. Their call was quite distinctive. One was collected. Bridled Titmouse - a few flocks were seen in the oaks and two were taken. A single Black-throated Gray Warbler was seen and collected from an oak. A Mountain Towhee was collected among the oaks & pines in the upper part of the canyon near the Hamburg mine. Vireo huttoni stephensi - a single bird was seen and collected from an oak near the creek. A single Band Tail Pigeon was flushed from a pine near the mine. Several Gray Squirrels were seen in the canyon and one was taken. This afternoon Walker ~~for~~ brought me a Neotoma collected about 2 miles east of Hereford.

July 18, 1930

I remained in camp today preparing birds collected yesterday. Heard Calif. Cuckoo calling ~~up~~ near creek. White-wing Doves were also heard calling. Arizona Jays were plentiful about camp.

July 19, 1930

Today Walker, Cook and I hiked up Ramsey Canyon to the Crest Trail where we could overlook both sides of the Huachuas. Nothing of special interest was noted on the ascent. Before reaching the top, we encountered a severe thunder storm which soaked us through. At the top, I hunted through





July 19, continued

the rather grassy openings among the Pines.

Birds seemed more plentiful here than in the canyon below. Pygmy Nuthatches were very common in the Pines and three were taken. A single Slender-billed Nuthatch was also seen and collected. Two House Wrens, An adult and immature male were collected and a few others seen. A pair of Cores Flycatchers were seen flycatching from a tall Pine tree and both were taken. Arizona Juncos were common and three immature birds were taken. An immature female Red-shafted Flicker was seen in a Pine and was collected. About ten gopher traps were set among the pines in the grass covered soil. Their diggings seemed plentiful. The settings yielded 3 *Thomomys* sp.

July 20, 1930

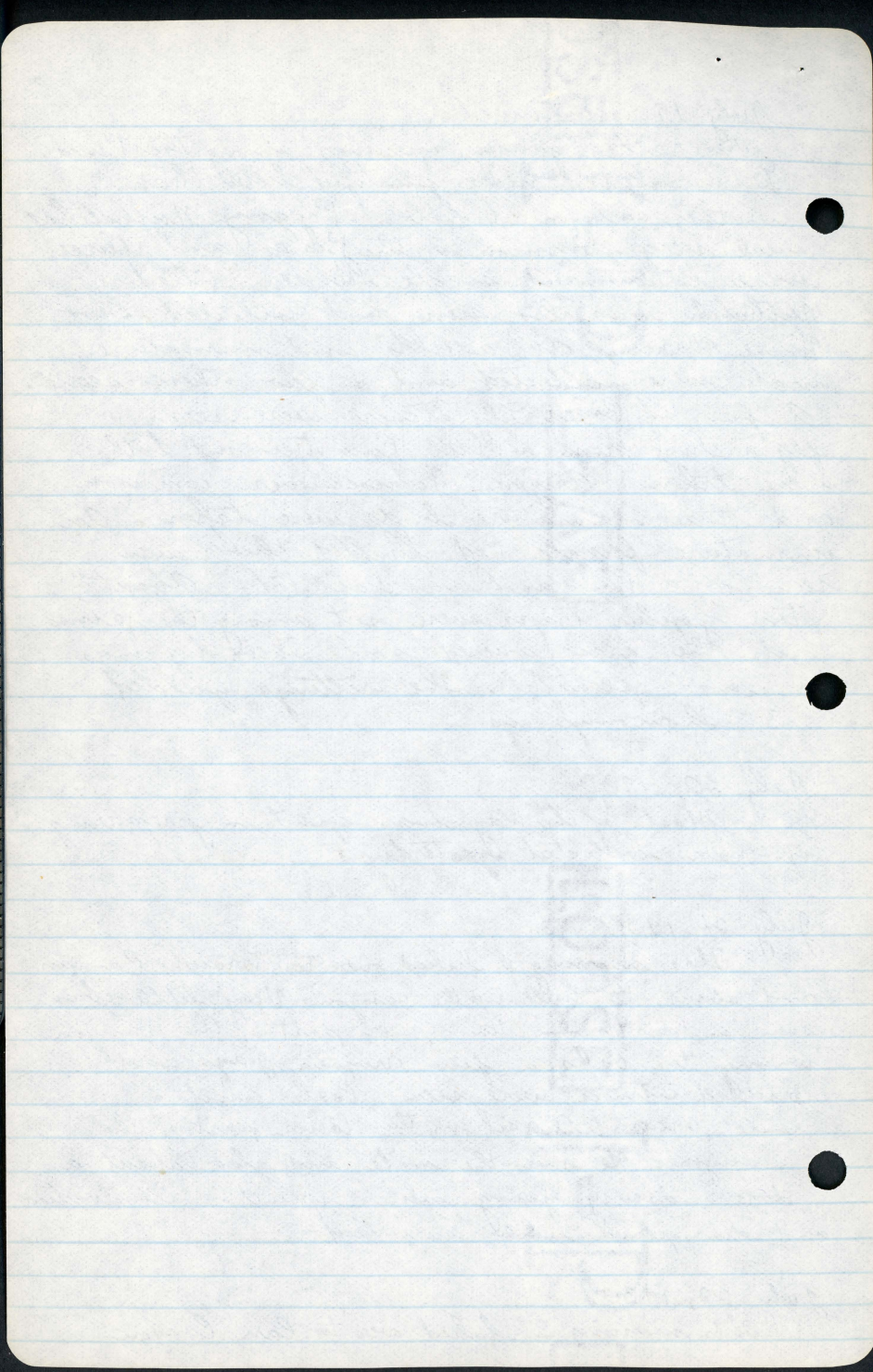
Most of the day was spent in preparing specimens collected ~~yesterday~~ today.

July 21, 1930

This morning I hiked over to Brown Canyon and about  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile up the canyon. Very little was seen or heard. In the upper part of the canyon among the oaks a few Arizona Jays and Bridled Titmice were seen. Cook shot a male Merriam's Quail in the lower part of the canyon. He saw the mate and also about a dozen downy young which spread in all directions and disappeared when surprised.

July 22, 1930 -

This morning I hiked over to Carr Canyon





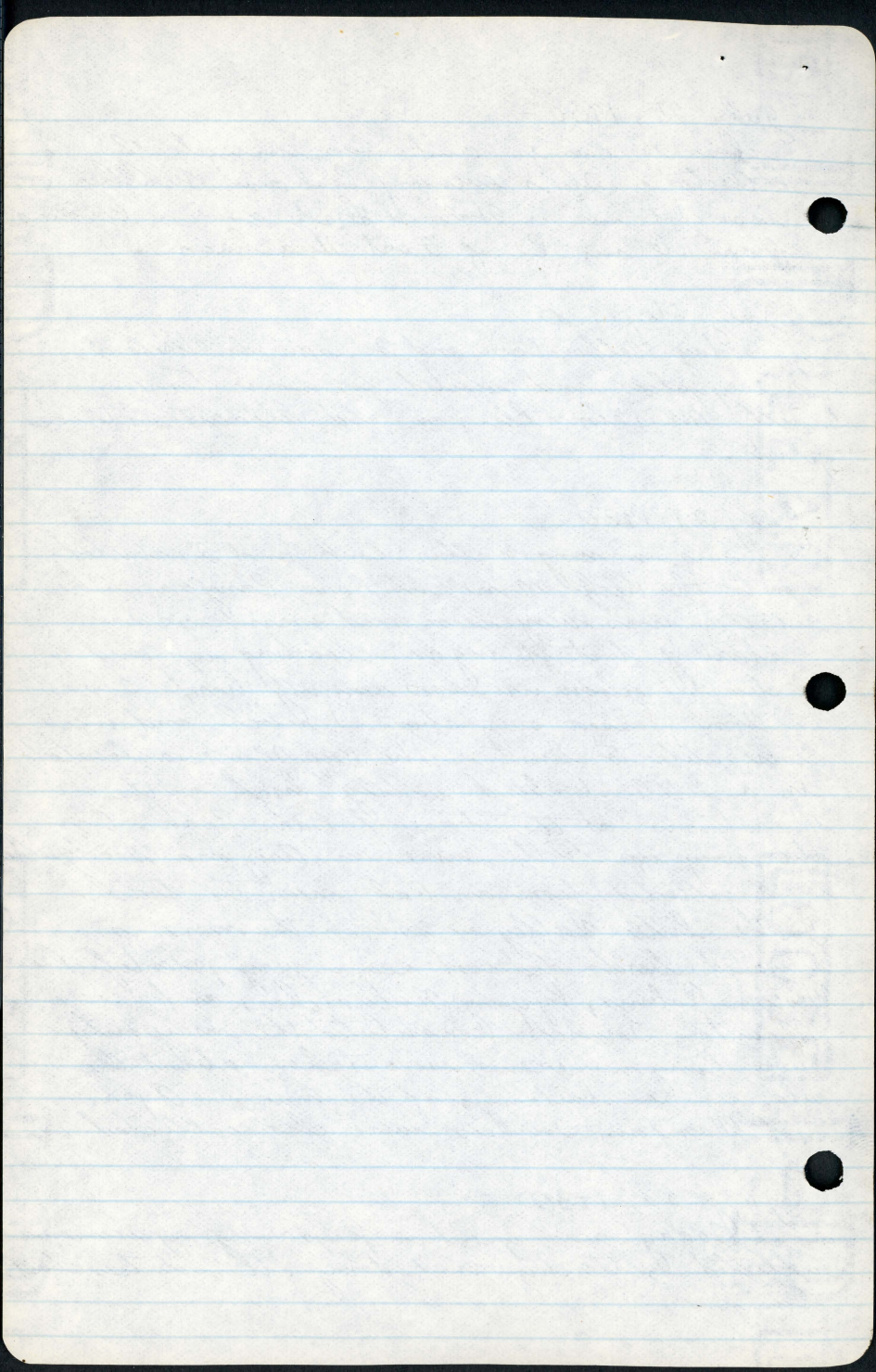
July 22, continued —  
and up the canyon about a mile. Bird life was practically absent. A few Arizona Jays and Bridled Titmice were seen. Had a talk with C. R. Brederman, an old resident of the canyon and a naturalist. This evening Walker gave me a Scaled Quail collected 2 miles east of the mouth of Ramsey canyon, a ground Squirrel collected five miles west of Hereford and two Kingbirds collected at Hereford.

July 23, 1930

This morning I hunted among the Oaks in the canyon and on the hillsides of the mouth of Ramsey Canyon. About some sycamores growing in a pasture at the mouth of the canyon a large number of Violet Green Swallows were seen flying and insect catching. Occasionally they would alight in the upper branches of the sycamores where they would rest for a few moments. I was able to collect two individuals, an adult and immature. Kingbirds were very numerous.

The greatest number were Western Kingbirds one of which being collected. A few Cassin Kingbirds were also noted and one was collected. On the south side of the canyon which is grassy with a growth of Live Oaks, Lark Sparrows were common and ~~two were~~ <sup>one was</sup> taken. A few Bewick Wrens were seen in the Oaks one of which was collected. Chipping Sparrows were

also common and two were taken. A little further up the canyon a small flock of Black-throated Gray Warblers were seen flitting about in the Oaks picking small insects off the leaves. Two of the birds were collected. A male Black-headed Grosbeak was seen flying





July 23, continued -

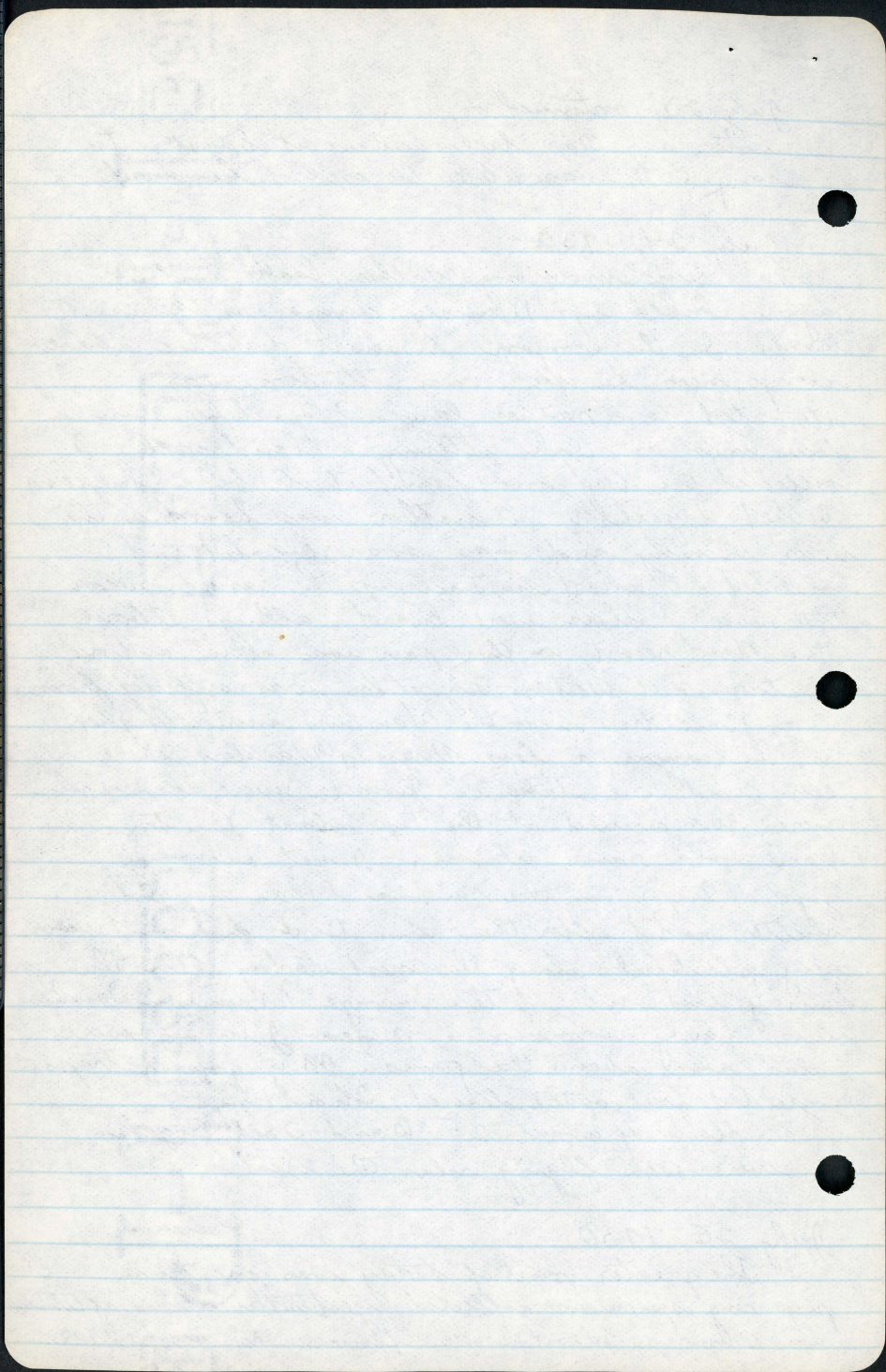
into an Oak tree where it burst into song. I was able to collect the bird.

July 24, 1930 -

This morning Walker, Cook, and I again hiked up Ramsey canyon to the crest trail. In the canyon a short distance above camp near the creek my attention was attracted to a rather large Flycatcher which flew into an Oak uttering a loud call. I collected the bird and found it to be a Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher. Another was heard in the near vicinity and was soon located and collected. A short distance up the canyon near the resort others were heard calling. Above the Hood resort another pair was seen and one taken. A Western Flycatcher was collected from a Pine tree near the Hamburg mine. Higher in the canyon a few Virginia Warblers were seen and one taken. Juncos were also seen here. We arrived at the top about the time a hard cold rain set in. I set out my gopher traps in the rain and then sought shelter until after the rain. Birds did not seem very plentiful along the crest today. On the brushy east side of the range Mountain Towhees were fairly common. A few Juncos were also seen about the pines. My gopher traps yielded five of the desired *Thomomys*. A flock of about 25 Band Tail Pigeons were seen flying near the crest.

July 25, 1930 -

The greater part of today was spent in preparing specimens collected yesterday. This afternoon an Arizona Woodpecker flew into an Oak





July 25, 1930 -

close to camp and was immediately collected. This evening Cook and Walker brought me a Horned Lark and a *Citellus* from 6 mi. E. of Fort Huachuca.

July 26, 1930

Today Walker, Cook and I went to Nereford for supplies and visited for some time with Mr. Palmerlee, an old resident in these parts.

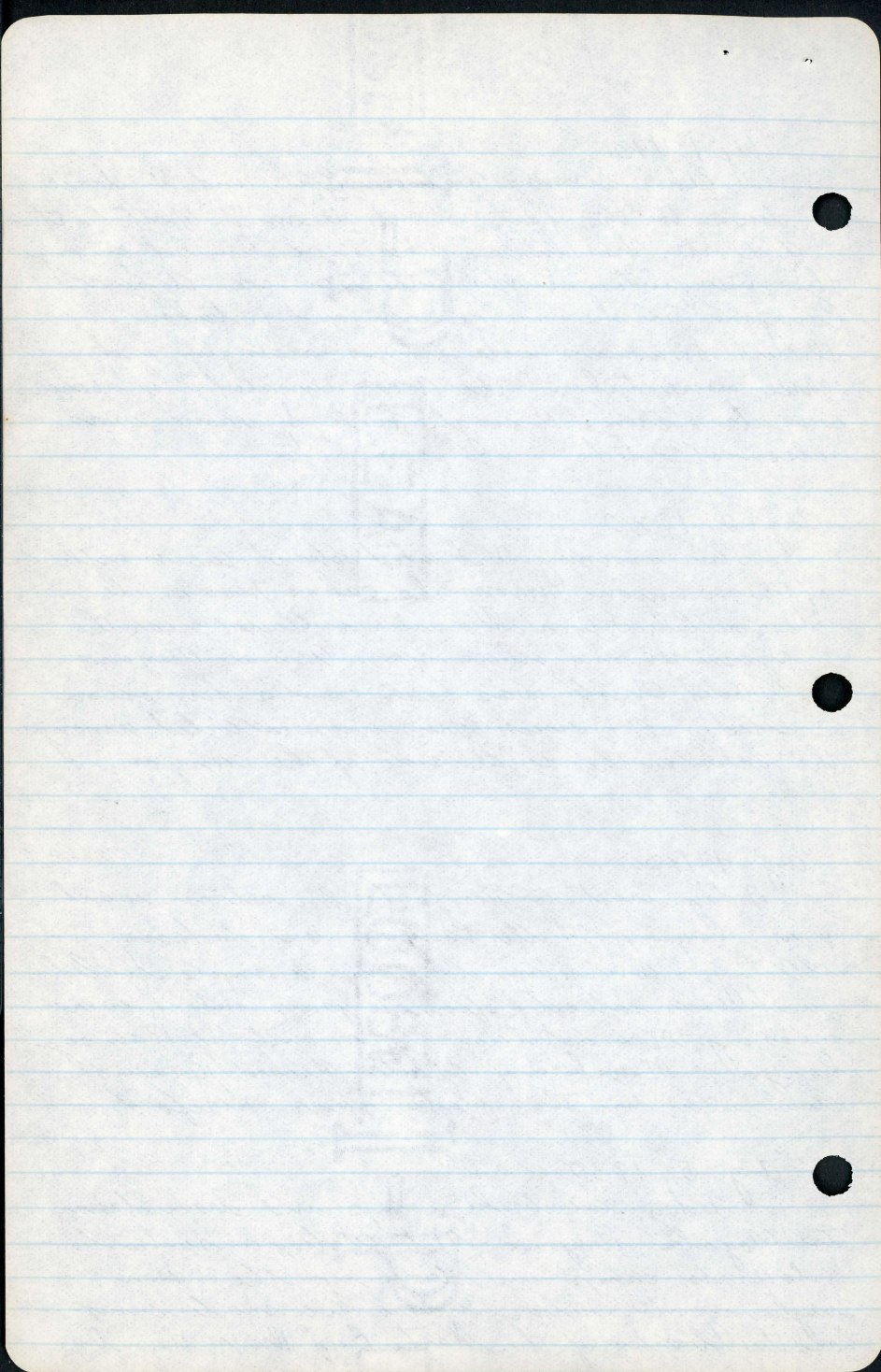
July 27, 1930

This morning Walker, Cook and I started up to the Reef Mine in Carr Canyon. The weather was very clear and warm up on starting but it began clouding up and by 11 o'clock it was raining hard. The storm passed over about 1 o'clock and we were able to hunt. The Reef Mine is located in a little timbered valley high in the Huachuclas at the base of Carr Peak. On the way up to the mine an Arizona Woodpecker was collected from an Oak near the trail.

In the little Valley in which the mine is situated birds did not seem very plentiful. Western Robins, Pygmy Nuthatches, and Mountain Towhees constituted the majority. Two Canyon Wrens were taken about the old wooden buildings of the mine. A pair of Mountain Towhees were also collected.

July 28, 1930

Today was spent in preparing specimens collected yesterday and doing other duties about camp.





July 29, 1930

A Western Mockingbird and a Lark Sparrow were collected at the mouth of Carr Canyon. It rained the greater part of the day making collecting difficult.

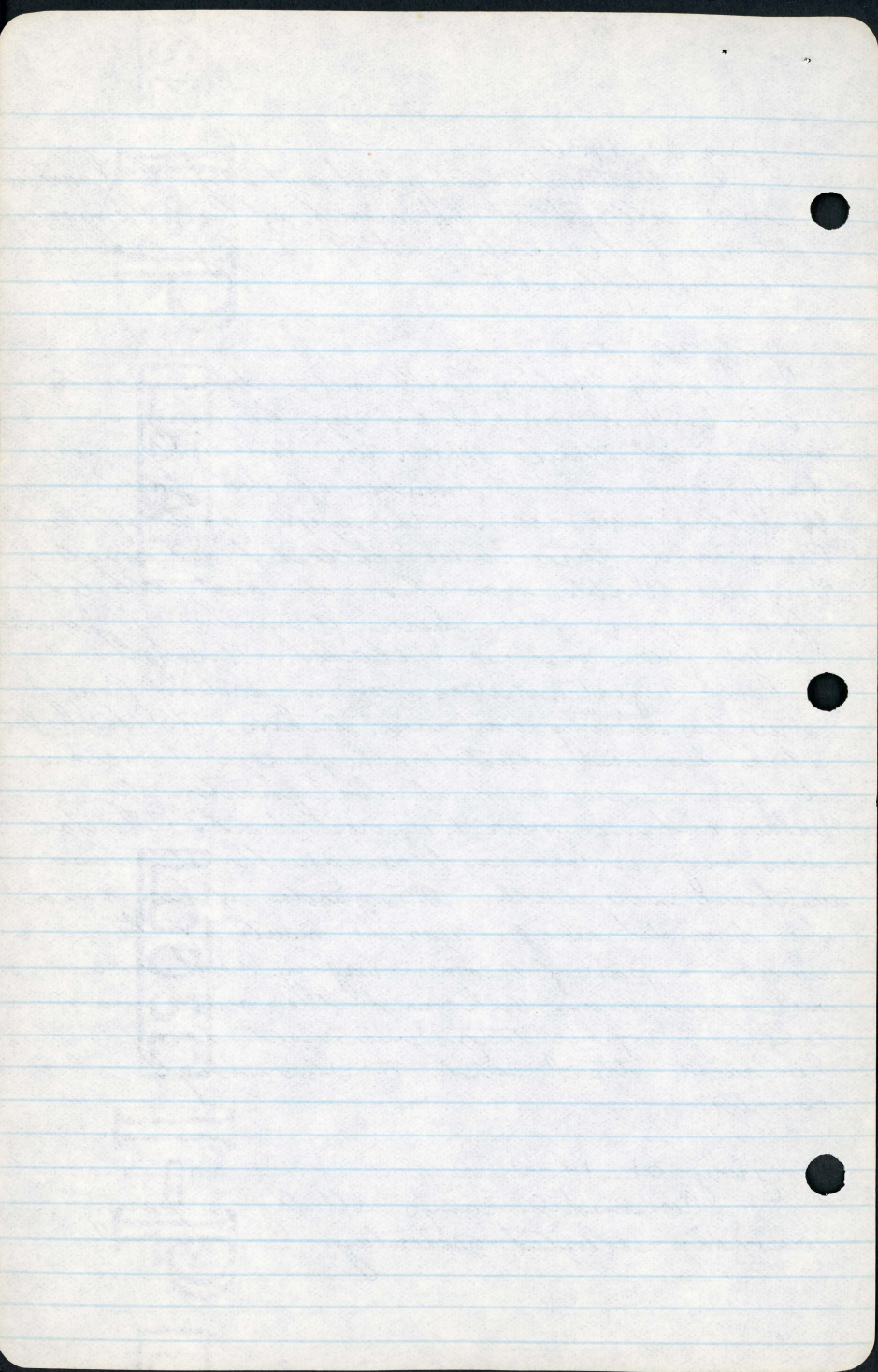
July 30, 1930.

Today Walker, Cook and I drove over to Miller Canyon and hiked up the canyon to the west trail. Near the top birds were fairly common. A number of Red-faced Warblers were seen in the upper parts of the Pines and three were collected. A single Virginia Warbler was also seen and collected from a pine near here. A number of Junco were seen and one collected. A single

Canes' Flycatcher was seen in a dead Pine tree flycatching and was taken. A Red-shafted Flicker was also collected in the pines. A doe and its fawn were seen at close quarters by Walker and me near the west trail. The doe was very curious and remained motionless until we were within 25 yards of her when she bounded away. Near the mouth of the canyon a pair of Acorn-storing Woodpeckers were seen in an Oak and the male was taken. Gopher traps were set along the west trail and 3 Thomomys caught.

July 31, 1930

Remained in camp all day preparing specimens collected yesterday.





Aug. 1, 1930

This morning Walker, Cook and I drove down to the flat about 6 miles North East of Fort Huachuca where we hunted among the mesquites. Birds were scarce. A few Canyon Towhees were seen and 1 taken. Desert Sparrows were seen sparingly and three were taken. An Ash-Throated Flycatcher was also taken. A single Lark Sparrow was also collected.

Aug. 2, 1930.

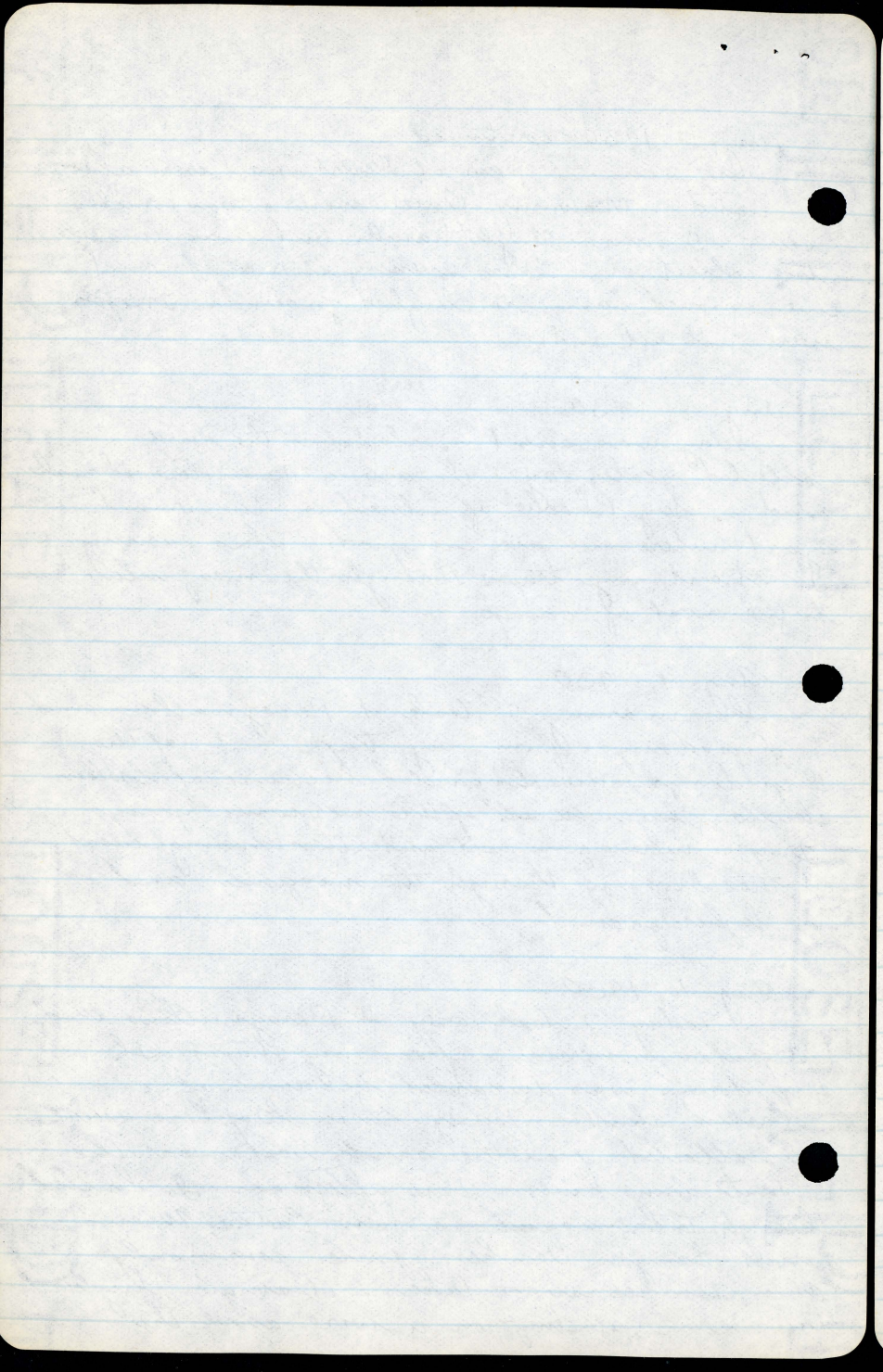
This morning I hunted about the mouth of the canyon among the oaks. Two male Vermilion Flycatchers were collected near the sycamores and others seen. A male Arizona Hooded Oriole was taken and a few others noted. A Bewick Wren was collected among the oaks on the south side of the canyon.

Aug. 4, 1930

Today went to Hereford. On return went part way up Miller Canyon but did no collecting. On return to camp a male Scaled Quail was collected from a pair which were crossing the road below the mouth of Ramsey Canyon. Numbers of White-Necked Ravens were seen on the flats near Hereford.

Aug. 5, 1930

Today we broke camp and drove down to Nogales, Arizona. Not finding a suitable place to camp we drove up the Tucson highway to Tubac where we made camp on the banks of the Santa Cruz River then dry.



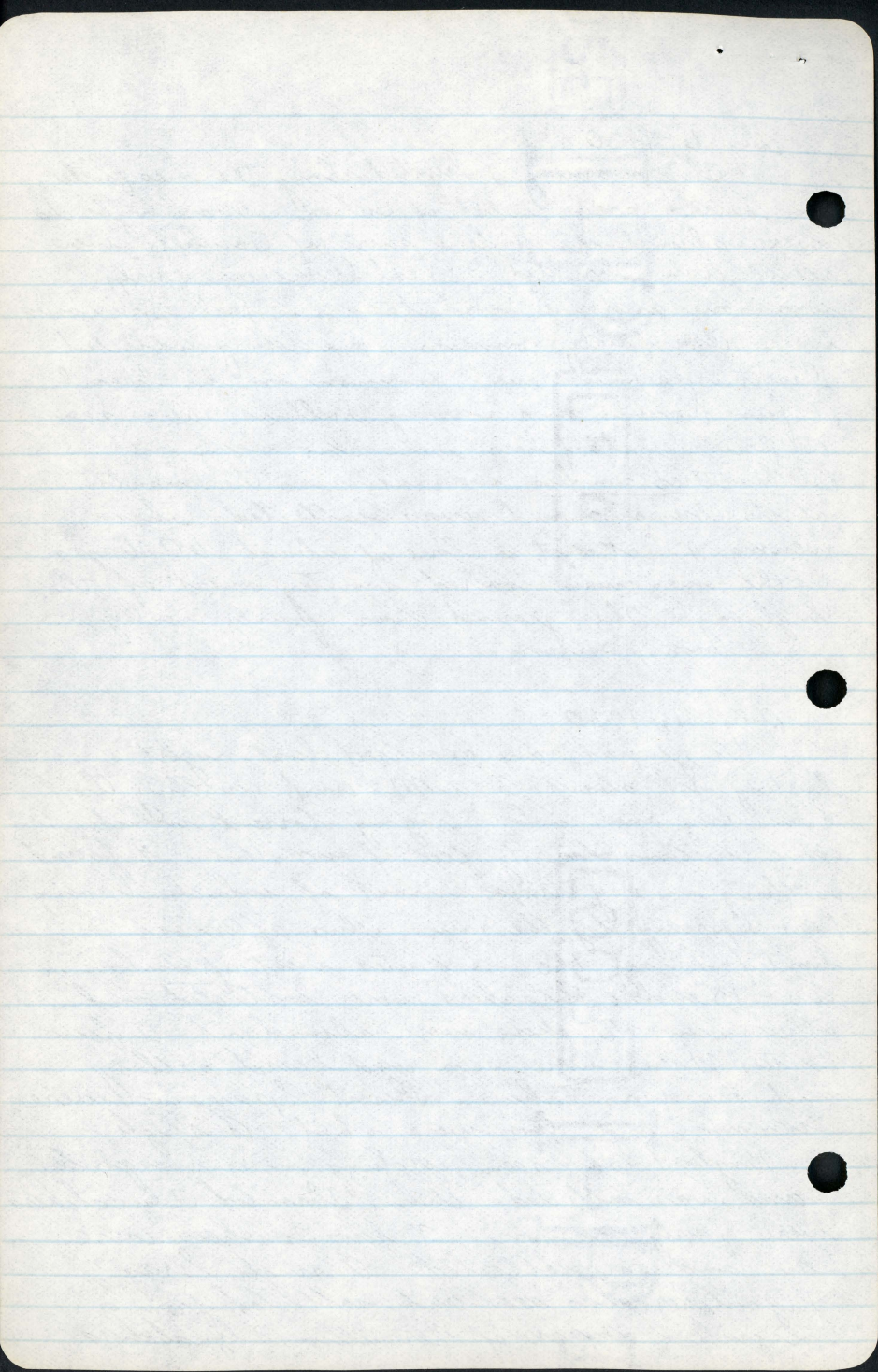


Aug. 6, 1930

This morning I hunted along the mesquite covered area west of Zubac. Mockingbirds were abundant. A few pairs of Towhees were seen. Ash-Throated Flycatchers were fairly common and one was taken. Lark Sparrows were also fairly common, one being collected. Desert Sparrows were common in the brush. A few Ravens and Turkey Vultures were seen. A few Grackles were also seen. A Citellus tereticaudus was seen in the mouth of its burrow and was collected. This evening I set out a line of about 60 traps in the mesquite covered country west of the highway. The ground was fairly rocky in composition.

Aug. 7, 1930

A general rain occurred last night lasting til about 8 A.M. and swelling the Santa Cruz River into a raging torrent which came within twenty feet of our tent. I found nothing in my traps most of which having been sprung by the rain. This afternoon I hunted among the mesquites west of Zubac. Two Bendire Thrashers were collected and others seen. Mockers were abundant. A few Cactus Wrens were seen and heard calling and one was taken. Desert Sparrows were common and two were shot. A single Kingbird was seen perching in a mesquite and was collected. Ash-Throated Flycatchers were fairly common. A few Towhees were seen and one collected. A single Gray? Flycatcher was seen and collected from a mesquite. A pair of Vermillion Flycatchers





Aug. 7, 1930 continued.

were seen. A pair of Desert Quail were also noted. Mourning Doves were occasionally seen. I saw a Nighthawk but was unable to collect it. This evening it rained and we moved camp to higher ground. Traps were not set out.

Aug. 8, 1930.

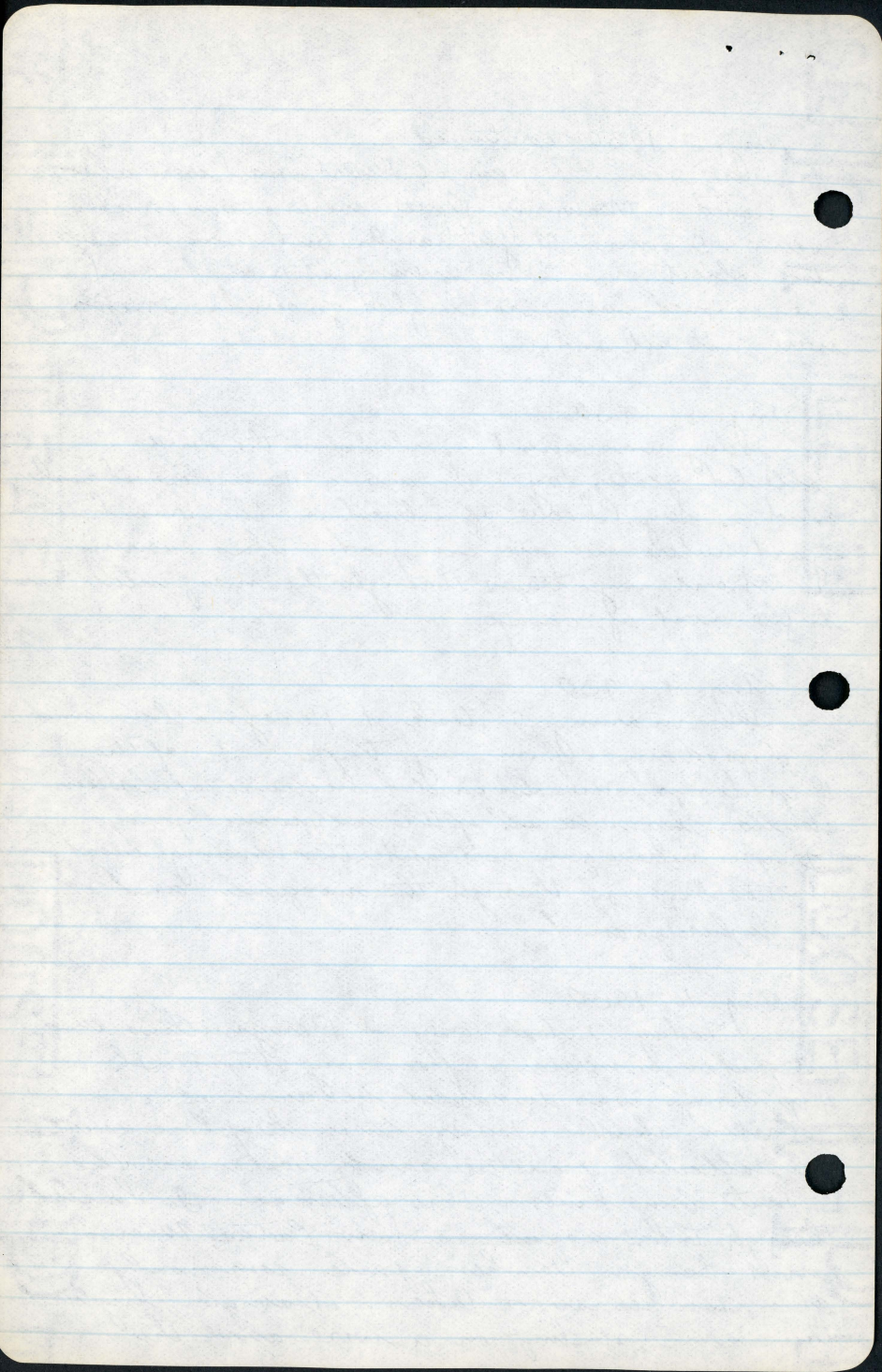
Today was spent in skinning the birds collected yesterday. I saw a Bendire Thrasher and a Say Phoebe of interest in the ranch yard where we are camped. This evening I set out my traps through the mesquites to the west of camp.

Aug. 9, 1930.

This morning I took 1 Perognathus and 8 Dipodomys from my traps. 5 of the Dipodomys were discarded because of broken skulls. They were all of the merriami group. Traps were again set out this evening west of the highway through the mesquites and in higher ground.

Aug. 10, 1930.

Today I took only 2 Perognathus and 1 Dipodomys merriami from my traps. The Dipodomys was discarded because of a broken skull. Today three Gophers were collected from the sandy soil near the Santa Cruz River. This afternoon I hunted through the mesquites. Saw Cactus Wrens and Canyon Towhees quite commonly. One Towhee was taken. A single Kingbird was seen perching on a wire above the





Aug. 10, continued

mesquites and was collected. A few Bendire Thrashers were seen. Mockers were common. There was a hard rain in the latter part of the afternoon.

This evening I set out my traps through the mesquites southwest of camp.

Aug. 11, 1930.

I got only 2 *Perognathus* in my traps one of which had a broken skull. Another *Perognathus* was brought to me later this morning by Cook who found it hiding under a board. Today a *Phainopepla*, 3 Cactus Wrens and an immature *Pyrrhuloxia* were taken about camp. Cook brought me

a House Finch and a Round Tail Ground Squirrel from the east side of the River. Another gopher was collected near the river and three Round-Tailed Ground Squirrels from mesquite association above camp.

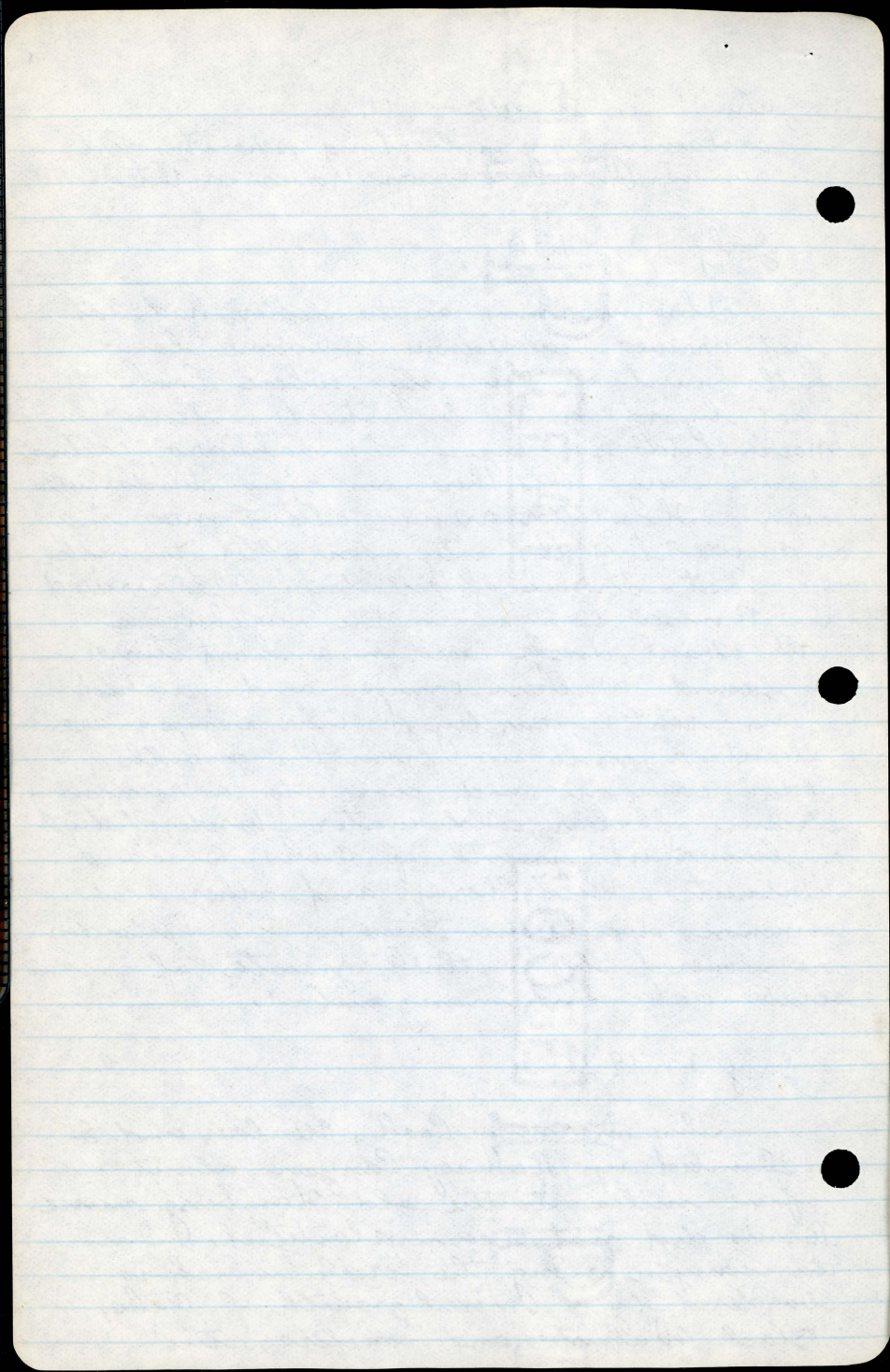
Aug. 12, 1930.

This morning we left Tubac for San Diego. Had lunch in Tucson and camped for the night about 8 miles west of Sila Bend.

Aug. 13, 1930.

Left Sila Bend camp early and arrived in Yuma about 1 o'clock. Stayed til evening and crossed Imperial Valley at night stopping for rest at Mountain Springs.

Aug. 14, 1930. Arrived in San Diego in early part of the afternoon.





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